GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2588
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
HERBAL PLANT
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several endangered herbal plants continue to be exported despite the ban on such export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to streamline the herbal drug industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): Department of Commerce have informed that no such instance has come to their notice.

(b): Does not arise.

(c)&(d): Following measures have already been taken:

- Setting up a Medicinal Plants Board which will address the need to augment supply of good quality raw material so that the standards and efficacy of the drugs improves which in turn is expected to enhance preservation of plants found in the wild while promoting production of the end products.

- Giving policy level support to the use of ISM&H medicines by encouraging State Governments to provide drugs in keeping with the Essential Drugs List for Government dispensaries & hospitals.

- Assisting State Pharmacies and laboratories to renovate and upgrade their infrastructure which, inter-alia, would have a beneficial effect on production of better quality drugs.

- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) has been notified.

- Private Laboratories are proposed to be recognised for testing of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha drugs.

- Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet in their report has placed focus on identifying a few herbs which can provide opportunities for large scale employment and take advantage of the domestic and global market for value added herbal or herb based products. The report identifies 45 Medicinal herbs for cultivation all over India,out of which, 7 herbs have been recommended for immediate action.